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BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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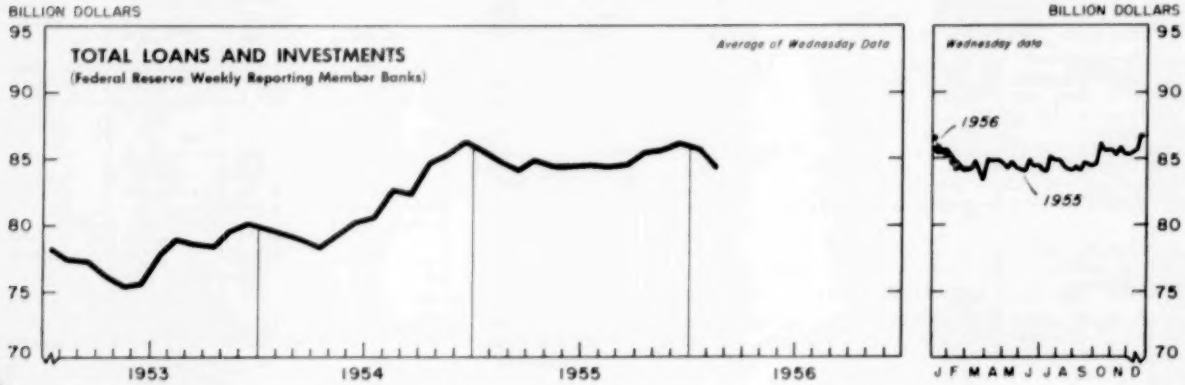
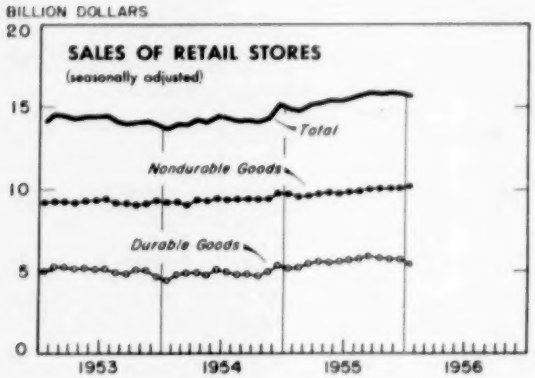
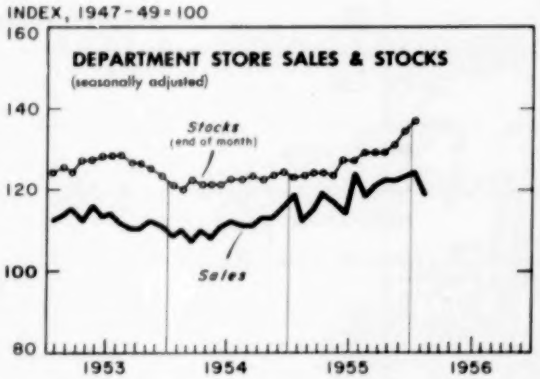
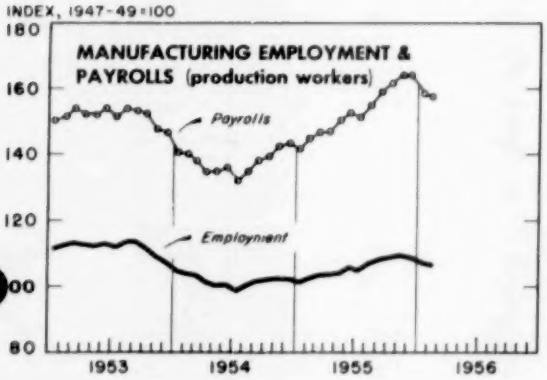
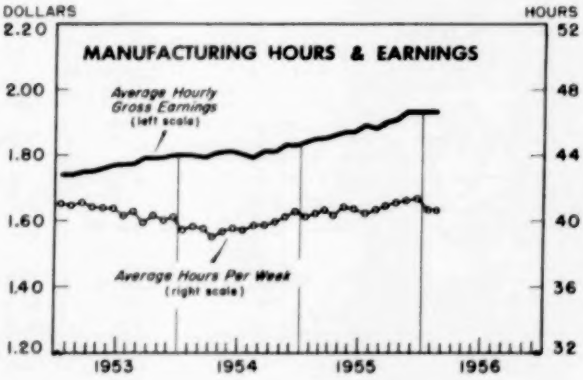
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS











WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Mar. 5	Mar. 12	Feb. 18	Feb. 25	Mar. 3	Mar. 10
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*110.0	.....	.....	112.1	112.2
Farm products.....do....	.....	*92.1	.....	.....	85.1	85.8
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*101.6	.....	.....	98.7	98.7
All other.....do....	.....	*115.6	.....	.....	120.4	120.4
22 commodities 2/.....do....	89.9	88.6	88.6	88.5	89.0	89.3
Department store sales.....do....	98	102	95	97	104	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	2,017	1,934	1,624	1,681	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,797	1,721	1,482	1,536	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	29,804	29,832	30,225	30,196	30,188	30,253
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/....do....	24,892	24,873	25,174	25,360	25,089	25,118
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,642	18,596	18,693	18,749	18,596	18,670
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	553	578	523	535	437	487
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	56,270	56,769	56,391	56,106	56,195	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do....	21,493	21,540	21,428	21,452	21,490	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	84,341	84,167	84,310	84,072	84,182	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	34,599	34,177	28,542	28,395	28,272	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do....	22,241	22,265	26,271	26,241	26,317	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	7,359	7,373	8,197	8,194	8,216	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	222	257	252	230	293	268
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.21	3.21	3.27	3.27	3.27	3.27
Stock prices,480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/..1935-39=100..	283.0	275.2	321.0	325.7	331.5	337.3
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	316.6	307.8	368.5	374.5	382.3	389.2
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,297	1,397	1,675	1,662	1,647	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	9,727	9,726	11,321	11,277	11,199	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	183,748	193,475	151,551	148,175	157,532	158,118
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,806	6,845	7,116	7,184	7,146	.....
Steel 3/.....thous. of short tons..	2,218	2,241	2,433	2,433	2,459	2,462
Percent of capacity 5/.....	#91.9	#92.9	98.8	98.8	99.9	100.0
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	654	667	698	687	711	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	362	365	363	364	378	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week ended March 17, 1956: Production, 2,433 thous. short tons; operating rate, 98.8 percent. * Monthly index for March 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955				1956	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
COMMODITY PRICES						
Retail price:						
All commodities (U.S.Dept. of Commerce index).1935-39=100..	207.3	207.5	208.2	208.1	207.6	.....
DOMESTIC TRADE						
All retail stores:						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total 1/.....mil. of dol..	13,279	12,762	15,894	19,268	r13,866	13,709
Durable-goods stores:						
Automotive group.....do....	2,645	2,707	3,039	3,118	r2,744	2,782
Furniture and appliance group.....do....	698	682	927	1,163	r761	751
Nondurable-goods stores:						
Apparel group.....do....	693	602	988	1,598	r721	629
Drug and proprietary stores.....do....	420	394	432	590	r459	454
Eating and drinking places.....do....	1,013	950	1,126	1,182	r1,084	1,045
Food group.....do....	3,398	3,253	3,648	4,168	r3,517	3,462
Gasoline service stations.....do....	949	873	1,085	1,104	r1,012	972
General-merchandise group.....do....	1,244	1,171	1,956	3,010	1,278	1,272
Estimated inventories:						
Unadjusted, total.....do....	20,970	22,010	24,780	r22,440	22,760	.....
Durable-goods stores.....do....	9,700	10,270	10,930	10,410	10,840	.....
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	11,270	11,740	13,850	r12,030	11,920	.....
Adjusted, total.....do....	22,210	22,360	23,590	r23,900	24,080	.....
Durable-goods stores.....do....	10,160	10,330	11,000	r11,230	11,390	.....
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	12,050	12,030	12,590	12,670	12,690	.....
Firms with 11 or more stores, estimated sales:						
Unadjusted.....do....	2,316	2,255	2,994	4,029	2,449	.....
Adjusted.....do....	2,754	2,717	2,898	2,916	2,937	.....
Department store sales, United States total:						
Unadjusted index.....1947-49=100..	91	88	148	212	p95	e93
Adjusted index.....do....	r120	112	122	r123	p124	e119
Wholesale trade:						
Sales, estimated (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	8,690	8,450	10,600	r10,180	9,360	.....
Durable-goods establishments.....do....	2,720	2,800	3,530	3,410	3,130	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do....	5,970	5,650	7,070	r6,770	6,230	.....
Inventories, estimated (unadjusted), total.....do....	11,740	11,770	12,620	12,290	12,480	.....
Durable-goods establishments.....do....	5,650	5,850	6,060	6,080	6,280	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments.....do....	6,090	5,920	6,560	6,210	6,200	.....

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. e/ Estimated. 1/ February 1956 figures are advance estimates.

ITEM	1955				1956	
	January	February	November	December	January	February
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES						
Labor force (Bureau of the Census):						
Civilian labor force.....thousands..	63,497	63,321	67,206	66,592	65,775	65,490
Employed.....do....	60,150	59,938	64,807	64,165	62,891	62,576
Agricultural employment.....do....	5,297	5,084	6,920	5,884	5,635	5,469
Nonagricultural employment.....do....	54,853	54,854	57,887	58,281	57,256	57,107
Unemployed.....do....	3,347	3,383	2,398	2,427	2,885	2,914
nployees in nonagricultural establishments:						
Total, unadjusted (U. S. Dept. of Labor).....do....	47,741	47,753	50,629	r51,311	r49,621	p49,446
Manufacturing.....do....	15,925	16,060	17,049	r17,026	r16,838	p16,778
Mining.....do....	741	737	754	754	r747	p747
Contract construction.....do....	2,237	2,169	2,580	r2,422	r2,258	p2,217
Transportation and public utilities.....do....	3,927	3,937	4,143	r4,165	r4,096	p4,089
Wholesale and retail trade.....do....	10,419	10,309	11,126	r11,753	r10,850	p10,720
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....do....	2,124	2,132	2,213	r2,219	r2,210	p2,222
Service and miscellaneous.....do....	5,533	5,536	5,690	r5,657	r5,602	p5,611
Government.....do....	6,835	6,873	7,074	r7,315	r7,020	p7,062
Production workers in manufacturing industries:						
Total.....do....	12,523	12,649	13,498	r13,464	r13,281	p13,204
Durable-goods industries.....do....	7,182	7,282	7,839	r7,847	r7,766	p7,687
Ordnance and accessories.....do....	96	94	84	83	82	p81
Lumber and wood products (except furniture).....do....	631	639	696	665	638	p640
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	293	296	323	321	r318	p320
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	430	434	477	r470	r465	p462
Primary metal industries.....do....	1,013	1,032	1,151	r1,160	r1,162	p1,159
Fabricated metal products 1/.....do....	834	844	912	r908	r891	p877
Machinery (except electrical).....do....	1,109	1,125	1,213	r1,236	r1,249	p1,259
Electrical machinery.....do....	800	803	870	r872	r859	p854
Transportation equipment.....do....	1,400	1,426	1,484	r1,511	r1,495	p1,423
Instruments and related products.....do....	217	216	225	r226	226	p226
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	5,341	5,367	5,659	r5,617	r5,515	p5,517
Food and kindred products.....do....	1,007	985	1,130	r1,071	r1,012	p996
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	91	89	101	r97	r92	p90
Textile-mill products.....do....	977	985	998	r999	r991	p987
Apparel and other finished textile products.....do....	1,069	1,101	1,135	r1,139	r1,123	p1,145
Paper and allied products.....do....	437	437	465	r463	457	p454
Printing, publishing, and allied products.....do....	512	512	539	537	529	p529
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	534	535	557	r559	r561	p564
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	169	170	171	170	r169	p168
Rubber products.....do....	209	209	231	234	r233	p229
Leather and leather products.....do....	336	345	332	r348	r348	p353
Manufacturing production-worker indexes:						
Employment: Unadjusted.....1947-49=100..	101.2	102.3	109.1	r108.9	r107.4	p106.8
Adjusted.....do....	101.8	102.5	108.4	108.3	r107.9	p106.9
Payrolls, unadjusted.....do....	141.5	144.4	163.9	r163.9	r158.9	p158.0
Labor turnover in manufacturing establishments:						
Accession rate.....monthly rate per 100 employees..	3.3	3.2	3.3	r2.5	p3.3	.....
Separation rate, total.....do....	2.9	2.5	3.1	r3.0	p3.6	.....
Discharge.....do....	.2	.2	.3	.2	p.3	.....
Lay-off.....do....	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.4	p1.7	.....
Quit.....do....	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.1	p1.4	.....
Military and miscellaneous.....do....	.3	.2	.2	.2	p.2	.....
Hours and earnings:						
Average weekly hours per worker, all manufacturing...hours..	40.2	40.4	41.2	41.3	40.6	p40.6
Durable-goods industries.....do....	40.9	41.1	r41.8	41.9	r41.2	p41.2
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	39.3	39.5	40.3	40.4	r39.8	p39.8
Average weekly earnings, all manufacturing.....dollars..	73.97	74.74	79.52	79.71	78.36	p78.36
Durable-goods industries.....do....	80.16	80.56	r86.11	86.31	r84.87	p84.46
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	66.02	66.36	70.12	70.30	r69.65	p69.25
Average hourly earnings, all manufacturing.....do....	1.84	1.85	1.93	1.93	1.93	p1.93
Durable-goods industries.....do....	1.96	1.96	2.06	2.06	r2.06	p2.05
Ordnance and accessories.....do....	2.03	2.03	2.10	2.10	r2.13	p2.13
Lumber and wood products (except furniture).....do....	1.63	1.63	1.69	1.66	1.64	p1.64
Furniture and fixtures.....do....	1.58	1.59	1.64	1.64	1.64	p1.64
Stone, clay, and glass products.....do....	1.81	1.81	1.90	1.89	r1.90	p1.90
Primary metal industries.....do....	2.16	2.15	2.31	2.32	2.33	p2.32
Fabricated metal products 1/.....do....	1.95	1.95	r2.03	2.03	2.03	p2.03
Machinery (except electrical).....do....	2.03	2.04	r2.15	2.16	2.17	p2.17
Electrical machinery.....do....	1.85	1.85	1.91	1.92	r1.92	p1.93
Transportation equipment.....do....	2.20	2.20	r2.30	2.28	r2.24	p2.25
Instruments and related products.....do....	1.87	1.88	r1.95	1.95	r1.97	p1.96
Nondurable-goods industries.....do....	1.68	1.68	1.74	1.74	1.75	p1.74
Food and kindred products.....do....	1.72	1.73	1.80	1.82	r1.84	p1.82
Tobacco manufactures.....do....	1.33	1.34	1.34	1.38	1.40	p1.40
Textile-mill products.....do....	1.37	1.38	1.42	1.42	1.42	p1.42
Apparel and other finished textile products.....do....	1.35	1.35	1.36	1.36	1.37	p1.38
Paper and allied products.....do....	1.79	1.79	1.87	1.88	r1.88	p1.88
Printing, publishing, and allied industries.....do....	2.31	2.33	2.36	2.38	r2.37	p2.37
Chemicals and allied products.....do....	1.94	1.95	2.04	2.04	2.05	p2.05
Products of petroleum and coal.....do....	2.28	2.27	2.42	2.40	2.40	p2.41
Rubber products.....do....	2.03	2.04	2.17	2.16	r2.16	p2.15
Leather and leather products.....do....	1.39	1.39	r1.44	1.44	1.46	p1.46

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

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ITEM	1954	1955				1956
	December	January	October	November	December	January
FINANCE						
Consumer credit (short- and intermediate-term):						
Total outstanding, end of month.....mil. of dol..	30,125	29,760	34,640	35,059	36,225	35,554
Installment credit, total.....do....	22,467	22,436	26,963	27,247	27,895	27,724
Installment credit extended and repaid:						
Unadjusted: Extended, total.....do....	3,046	2,389	3,051	3,103	3,508	2,725
Repaid, total.....do....	2,593	2,420	2,787	2,819	2,860	2,896
Adjusted: Extended, total.....do....	2,762	2,830	3,075	3,185	3,185	3,212
Repaid, total.....do....	2,488	2,496	2,774	2,830	2,747	2,986
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS						
Operations on scheduled airlines: 1/						
Miles flown, revenue.....thousands..	44,365	45,092	49,201	45,592	48,500	.....
Express and freight ton-miles flown.....do....	19,697	15,347	21,526	19,257	21,510	.....
Mail, ton-miles flown.....do....	9,833	6,574	7,015	7,009	10,077	.....
Passengers carried, revenue.....do....	2,518	2,601	3,081	2,705	2,724	.....
Passenger-miles flown, revenue.....millions..	1,426	1,485	1,674	1,453	1,578	.....
ELECTRIC POWER						
Electric power, production, total.....mil. of kw.-hr..	49,890	50,404	54,206	54,513	57,571	58,092
Electric utilities.....do....	43,449	43,955	47,367	47,751	50,715	51,120
Industrial establishments.....do....	6,441	6,448	6,839	6,762	6,856	6,972
LUMBER AND MANUFACTURES						
Lumber (National Lumber Manufacturers Association):						
Production, total.....mil. of bd. ft..	3,085	2,812	3,431	3,111	2,888	2,933
Softwoods.....do....	2,499	2,251	2,728	2,442	2,280	2,305
Shipments, total.....do....	3,067	2,827	3,360	3,076	2,778	2,904
Softwoods.....do....	2,479	2,243	2,605	2,360	2,106	2,227
Stocks, gross (mill and concentration yards).....do....	9,241	9,225	8,597	8,618	8,729	8,746
Softwoods.....do....	5,275	5,282	5,186	5,254	5,429	5,495
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Barrels and drums, steel, heavy types:						
Orders, unfilled, end of month.....thousands..	2,217	2,198	1,910	1,741	1,840	2,377
Shipments.....do....	1,797	1,742	2,075	2,042	2,185	1,940
Stocks, end of month.....do....	90	77	124	138	147	117
Foundry equipment (new), new orders, net mo. avg. shipments, 1947-49=100..	113.9	81.0	108.6	154.4	183.9	.....
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS						
Portland cement:						
Production.....thous. of bbl..	22,290	20,223	27,924	24,894	23,075	.....
Shipments.....do....	16,347	13,520	28,950	21,985	17,203	.....
Stocks, finished, end of month.....do....	16,731	23,437	8,754	r11,664	17,536	.....
Stocks, clinker, end of month.....do....	5,274	7,888	3,514	r4,236	6,750	.....
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Motor vehicles, factory sales, total.....number..	766,185	725,379	601,256	r860,800	r799,092	690,253
Coaches, total.....do....	427	190	469	r359	410	253
Domestic.....do....	337	185	385	340	406	242
Passenger cars, total.....do....	669,936	635,513	505,177	745,993	r695,096	591,032
Domestic.....do....	643,763	611,040	491,893	720,667	r667,974	569,846
Trucks, total.....do....	95,822	89,676	95,610	114,448	r103,586	98,968
Domestic.....do....	79,793	73,947	81,390	98,345	r86,921	83,752

r/ Revised. 1/ Data beginning 1955 include local service operations of one carrier.

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